

REMARKS

This response is in reply to the Office Action Rejection mailed August 9, 2006. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application with each of the claims being rejected.

Claims 1-10, 12-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 20 have been amended to correct the items identified in the rejection. These amendments are for purposes of complying with 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph and should not affect the scope of the claims. Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication Number 2002-284399 (hereinafter CGET). Our understanding of CGET is based on the figures and the computer generated English translation which was included with the Office Action Rejection. As illustrated in Figure 5, CGET includes a pair of skew rollers 142a and 142b that are laterally offset at a point along the media path. A pair of sensors S1, S2 are located in proximity to these rollers and also laterally disposed at a point along the media path. As the media sheet moves along the media path, the laterally-offset sensors determine the amount of skew. The skew rollers then are rotated at the appropriate speeds to remove the skew. ***A physical characteristic of the media sheet, such as the thickness of the sheet or the type of material, is input to determine a maximum amount of skew that can be removed from the media sheet. This physical characteristic does not determine the expected amount of skew in the media sheet.***

The present application determines an expected amount of skew based on one or more physical characteristics of the media sheet. ***The speed of the rolls is adjusted to remove this expected amount of skew, not a detected actual amount of skew.*** CGET, conversely, senses the actual amount of skew and determines whether this actual amount of skew can be corrected based on the physical characteristics.

Claim 1 has been amended to now include that an expected amount of skew is determined and that the first and second rolls are moved at a speed differential to remove this expected amount of skew. Claim 12 has been amended to also include that an expected amount of skew is determined. Claims 15 and 20 each already include the step of determining a skew amount based on the at least one physical characteristic. Therefore, independent claims 1, 12, 15, and 20 are not anticipated by CGET. Also, the dependent claims that depend respectively from these claims are also not anticipated for at least these same reasons.

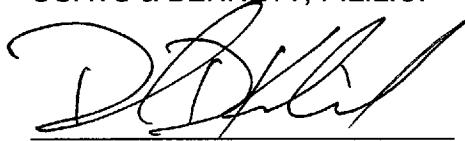
Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,920,307 (hereinafter Howe). Howe is directed to registering an image on a media sheet. The skew in the sheet is measured by optical sensors that detect the presence of the edges of the media sheets. As illustrated in Figure 1, two sensors 48 and 50 are mounted on a carriage adjacent to drive rolls for edge detection of the media sheet and control of the motors. The sequence of engagement of the sensors and the amount of time between detection is utilized to generate control signals to correct skew of the media sheet by varying the speed of the drive rolls (column 6 line 56- column 7 line 5).

Howe does not determine an expected amount of skew based on at least one physical characteristic of the media sheet. Each of claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-20 include determining an expected amount of skew based on at least one physical characteristic of the media sheet. Because this aspect is not disclosed, these claims are not anticipated by Howe.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, the Applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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